

Blessed are the Merciful

The Gospel of Matthew, Part 17

Matthew 5:7

Sermon Outline

Experiencing Mercy

1. Mercy is God's goodness or love shown to those who are in misery or distress.

Grace is especially associated with men in their sins; mercy is especially associated with men in their misery. In other words, while grace looks down upon sin as a whole, mercy looks especially upon the miserable consequences of sin. . . . Mercy is pity plus action. – Martyn Lloyd-Jones

2. Mercy is what we need. (Luke 18:13, I Pt. 1:3)
3. Mercy is what God gives. (Rom. 9:15, 2 Cor. 1:3, Eph. 2:4)
4. Mercy is expressed in the Gospel. (Heb. 2:17, 4:16)

Extending Mercy

1. Mercy is bound up with the other beatitudes.
2. Mercy is what God expects from His children. (Mt. 23:23)
3. Mercy knows no bounds or limits. (Luke 10:30-37)
4. Mercy is messy. (Matt. 5:42)

Expecting Mercy

1. Mercy cannot be merited. (Eph. 2:1-10)
 - a. Who could merit mercy?
 - b. What about salvation by grace?
2. Mercy is the fruit of repentance and faith. (Mt. 7:17-20)

Those who show mercy find it. . . This is not because we can merit mercy by mercy, but because we cannot receive the mercy of God unless we repent, and we cannot claim to have repented for our sins if we are unmerciful towards the sin of others. –John Stott

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. How is this study of the beatitudes affecting your life? What are you learning and how are you applying it?
2. Play with the progression and flow of these beatitudes. How are they all bound up together and related to one another?
3. What's the difference between grace and mercy?
4. What's the relationship between experiencing, extending and expecting mercy? Which two are obvious and explicit in the text and which is implicit in the text?
5. Why is our own need for mercy so related to our ability to extend mercy?
6. Look at Rom. 9:15. To whom does God extend mercy? What is God called in 2 Cor. 1:3? Based on Eph. 1:1-10, who were we when God extended his mercy to us? What is said about mercy in this magnificent text?
7. Why is it reasonable that God would expect mercy from his kids?
8. What does mercy look like? Read Luke 10:30-37? What are the bounds of God's mercy? Who has God placed in your path to extend mercy to?
9. Why is mercy messy? Why is mercy hard for engineer, high control types? Why is mercy normally harder for men than it is for women? Is mercy hard for you? How are you constrained in your mercy? What do we do when we struggle with our lack of mercy?
10. Can mercy be merited? Why must we avoid this? Who can expect mercy? Does the quote from John Stott make sense and bring clarity for you?
11. How can you step out and be more merciful personally or as a family? How can you teach your children the importance of mercy? How can Grace step out and be more merciful corporately?